

Jefferson Davis Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Jefferson Davis	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	20.9%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	25.6%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	7.9%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$7,106	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.4%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	3.0%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	6.6	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	76.6%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	72.4%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	11.7%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	15.7%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	311.8	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	89.1	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	311.7	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	257.1	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	80.3	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	7.0	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.3	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 5	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	26.4%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI >30 (adults 20+)	25.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	70.8%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.2%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	72.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

Named after the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis Parish was formed on June 12, 1912. Prior to this date it comprised “Imperial Calcasieu” with Allen and Beauregard parishes. This division was the result of 16 years of deliberation, and passed without a dissenting vote. The early population of the area was a mixture of Creoles, Acadians, and Americans, from many of the other Southern states. The discovery of oil (the first in Louisiana on September 21, 1901) started the oil history of Louisiana. From that time the development of the area has been constant.



Settled in the 1800s, Jennings, Lake Arthur, Welsh and Elton are towns which reflect Midwestern influence blended with the rich culture and traditions of Southwest Louisiana's people and its diverse landscape. Stroll down brick sidewalks with gaslights. See National Historic Register homes, Victorian architecture, unique museums, a replica of the state's first oil well, scenic byways, Coshatta Indians, a wildlife refuge and lake surrounded by 100-year-old moss-draped oaks.

Parish Seat³ Jennings

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Jennings

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	31,435
2003 (estimate)	31,113
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	80.6%
African-American	17.8%
Some other race.....	1.6%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.0%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.6%
5-14	16.5%
15-17	5.2%
18-19	3.0%
20-24	6.1%
25-64	48.3%
65 & over	13.3%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	22ft.
Land area in square miles	652
Water area in square miles	336.5

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual	68°
January	58°
July	91°
Annual average rainfall	59.1 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Jefferson Davis Parish

Civilian.....	12,185
Employed	11,608
Unemployed.....	577
Unemployment.....	4.7%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- McNeese State University, Lake Charles
- Louisiana State University and A&M College, Eunice

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary
<http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.